



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY, FIRE AND STATE LANDS

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Robert L. Morgan
Executive Director

A. Joel Frandsen
State Forester/Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 3520

PO Box 145703

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5703

(801) 538-5555 telephone

(801) 533-4111 fax

www.fsl.utah.gov

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Jim Springer (801) 538-5324

UTAH'S NATIONALLY-RANKED BIGGEST TREES ANNOUNCED

American Forests releases new National Register of Big Trees including seven champions and two co-champions from Utah.

American Forests, the nation's oldest conservation group, unveiled the 2004-2005 National Register of Big Trees. This year, Utah had seven of the biggest trees in the nation. American Forests created the Register in 1940 as a way to champion forest conservation by recognizing the outstanding specimens of the nation's native and naturalized trees. The Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands administers the program in Utah.

A champion tree is "crowned" based upon a formula that awards points for height, circumference and crown spread. The tree with the largest number of points is crowned champion for its species. Trees within five points are considered co-champions.

There are 826 native and naturalized species eligible for inclusion on the Register. The current list totals 889 champs and co-champs representing 738 of those 826 species. Florida again has the most national champion trees (163); followed by California (102); Arizona (84); Texas (80); and Virginia (56). The Register is available in print from American Forests or online at www.americanforests.org.

Utah's champions are: Alderleaf, Wasatch-Cache National Forest; Rocky Mountain White Fir, Uinta National Forest; Knowlton Hophornbeam, Capitol Reef National Park; Rocky Mountain juniper, Cache National Forest; Limber Pine, Uinta National Forest; Utah Serviceberry, Duchesne; and Blue Spruce, Ashley National Forest.

"We are particularly proud that one of only three trees that has been on the Register since its inception is in Utah," says Maggie Shao, urban forestry coordinator for the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. "It is the Rocky Mountain juniper found in the Cache National Forest." The giant sequoia, "General Sherman," found in California's Sequoia National Park, remains the nation's largest tree and the world's largest living thing. The "General Sherman" and a western juniper in Stanislaus National Forest, California are the other two trees from the "Class of 1940."

Not every tree specimen has a national champion. There are currently 87 species without a national champ and five states that do not have one. These states include Delaware, Massachusetts, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Wyoming.

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